

WINDOW ON WESLEY'S



FEBRUARY 2020

STAFF

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M.Phil (Superintendent)
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Community Worker: Ms Sally Rush BA MA MLitt

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Engagement Officer) BA (Hons) MA

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the February edition of Window on Wesley's! Whether you are reading online, or in the print version, we hope this finds you well as the days lengthen. As we have been preparing here for the 'Work, Rest, Success' concert and Conference, I have been thinking about my own choices about work. Coming out of school, I took the first thing I could find, starting on the day after I graduated from High School, aged 18. I was working in a small factory manufacturing fibre optic components, saving money for university. I was only there 4 months before I went back to studying, but they had me back at holidays, until I got an internship with the US Department of Defence that took me through the rest of University Holidays. I never felt like I had any choice as to work – it was the best paid, or whoever would have me. I certainly did not think about my faith as influencing what I did, or how I did it. It was only ten years later that I would stop long enough to begin to ask questions not just about how to pay the bills, but what I was for. What work I might love, even and especially when it was hard. Whatever our stage of life, it is a good thing to take the chance offered here to pause and think, and pray, and discern among friends. What encouragement you might take away!

At the Chapel, we are gearing up for the weekend of 21-22 February, Friday and Saturday, when we have the concert and day Conference, '**Work, Rest Success.**' (Please do book on Eventbrite, links on our website.) The '**Emerging Talent**' concert on Friday night features three of our own home-grown young adults along with some of their friends, and our community members. All are now pursuing professional music and creative work: starting at 7.30pm and with an entrance of only £1, this is a great start to your evening or way to support our young people. The next day, Saturday 22 February from 10.00-5.00pm, we will gather to reflect on our working lives. What encouragement might you take away? In the 'Work, Rest, Success' Conference, we will hear inspiring speakers, workshop for our aspirations in work, reflect on what work has meant to us in our faith. This is a

tailored opportunity for young adults and folk at all stages, looking to get into work or to change direction to find out what choices and chances are out there. Several local employers and many community partners will also be present. Most of us spend the majority of our waking lives at work, and church should take this part of our lives seriously: our work matters, and this is a chance for all of us to reflect on this part of our lives. Not just for the under 25s, in other words.

Later this month, we begin Lent – here, kicking off with a day-long singing workshop on the **Psalms: Songs For Sighing**. From 10am on Saturday 29 February, we will be led to study and learn to sing the Psalms, which we will then sing each week in Lent, as we work towards Easter. Come for as much as you can! Saturday mornings following, from 10-11.30am we will study the Psalms in our ecumenical course as well. Look for a separate notice!

Friends, this February stay warm, stay well, and encourage one another. The days are getting longer, and spring is coming.

Jen

Church news & dates for the diary!

Alan Watts: Celebrating 75 years with Boy's Brigade

On January 11 over fifty gathered for stories and celebration with Alan Watts, marking 75 years since he first became involved with the Boys Brigade at the Leysian Mission. This is same Brigade that continues here today, every Tuesday night. Boys and now girls (we incorporate the Girl's Association) from age 8 up learn about faith, do active games, craft, and life skills. But all this is sustained by the most faithful group of leaders, who are there every week. Captain Matthew Smith, and Officers Josh Snape (a church trustee), Richard Morley, Louis Colley, and Peter Awusu with other helpers do this work on behalf of the church because

they care about what happens with our youth. Want to know more? Ask in the office, or speak to one of them. It is great fun!

Chair of the Methodist Council Mrs Jill Baker and London District Chair Revd Dr Jongi Zihle, congratulate **Revd Dr**



Jonathan Hustler on being unanimously voted for, by the council to be recommended to the 2020 Methodist Conference for appointment as Secretary of the Conference with effect from 1st September. The London District is grateful for the appointment of one of

their own to this important task in the life of the church and rejoices in adding our congratulations to Jonathan.

Songs for Sighing: Singing the Psalms: Saturday 29 February

Saturday 29 February we have a workshop from 10 am, facilitated by Adam Carlill, to study and learn to sing the Psalms of Lament. These ancient prayers carry the full spectrum of human anger, grief, hope, and pain. In them we remember God's promises, and tell the truth about the tragedy that comes in life sometimes. The words of scripture live as we make them our own. Come and sing, study, reflect – no experience necessary! We will use the Psalms we learn in worship each week during Lent.

FORWARD DATE: Sunday 29 March an early morning!!

On 29 March BBC Radio 4 will broadcast the weekly service from Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission, commemorating the 40th anniversary of Archbishop Oscar Romero's martyrdom. The service will go out live from 8.15 AM, and we hope as many of us as can come will, to make a lusty singing congregation. Details to follow. After the service there will be a special breakfast for all, and then we will have a service of Holy Communion at 10 am. **THERE WILL BE NO SERVICE AT 11: this will be replaced by**

the 8.15am and 10.00am on this Sunday. Taize will follow at 7.00p pm, as normal.

Get Involved this spring: a snapshot of what's happening!

- Ash Wednesday 26th February: Two Communion Services (with Ashing): 12.45pm (30 minutes – Foundry Chapel) & 7.30pm (Main Chapel).
- Wednesday evenings in Lent, beginning 4 March. Meet at 5.30pm for food & refreshments for 6.00pm-7.00pm for our Lenten Study programme: Exploring Faith: food, prayer, big questions.
- Followed at 7.30-8.30pm Songs for Sighing: Lenten Communion Services with reflections by local preachers.
- Saturday 29 February, 10.00-4.00pm (stay as long as you can): Songs for Sighing, Psalms Workshop
- Saturday Mornings from 7 March, 10.00am for 10.30-11.00am: Studying the Psalms. Held at a variety of venues, study the Psalms with our ecumenical partners. Please contact the office for further details

What our Trustees are up to this month:

Mission

- Working on communications strategy to get the word out on church events Review of Global Mission Fellow - let's have another!
- Getting going with London Citizens
- Re-visioning Boys Brigade/Girl's Association

Property

- 'Refresh' - programme of upgrades to Church site
- Recruitment of new trustees

Finance

- Year end 2018/19 and audit
- Forward planning - budgets and giving

Psalms for the Common Era
Hebrew Psalms in Modern Metrical English for
Individuals, Choirs and Congregations

Songs for Sighing

Healing the Wounds of Hurt and Failure

Using Adam Carlill's fresh and lively translation of the Psalms, we will explore a variety of metrical psalms set to well-known hymn tunes, with special emphasis on those for use during Lent.

Saturday 29th February 2020

Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission
49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU

administration@wesleyschapel.org.uk

www.psalmsforthecommonera.com

The Revd Dr Adam Carlill will be leading a day of reflection to help the beginning of our observance of Lent. Adam was moved to produce a metrical translation of The Psalms to ensure sung psalmody could thrive in regular congregational worship without the need for a trained choir. This will be an informal session where we will be singing, pausing and hearing about how the lament psalms can enrich our experience of Lent.

All are welcome.

Hymn Society Bulletin - 'Brilliant!'

Count Your Blessings – put your faith into action through daily reflections, prayers and challenges

Christian Aid – yes, it's that time of year again when Christian Aid



encourages us to count our blessings. This year our focus is on climate change and the way in which it impacts upon our sisters and brothers around the world.

Did you know that in the UK we are responsible for 50 times the carbon dioxide emissions of the average Kenyan, yet Kenyans are facing climate catastrophe? It is unjust that people are battling the worst of a climate crisis they did not create.

Climate-induced drought reinforces the cycle of poverty as families cannot grow their crops, losing a source of income and food. Women and children have to travel long distances to collect water. Esther would set out at 6am and not return until 9 or 10am, and the children would be very late for school.

Do we ever think twice about turning on the tap? I know I don't I simply take it for granted.

So we are challenged during Lent to be grateful for our many blessings. And so we pray for the work of Christian Aid, together in partnership with the communities concerned as they seek to help and improve conditions.

Booklets will be available in church on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday (23rd February). I hope you will join me during Lent, to focus on these important issues.

Thank you,

Zena Goss – Congregation member

Work, Rest & Success Employability Conference

Venue: Wesley's Chapel and Leysian
Mission, 49 City Road, London

Date: Sat 22nd Feb 2020

Time: 10am – 5pm

Specialist Speakers from:
Arts, Law, Engineering and more

Booking £5 via Eventbrite – includes a gift bag
with portfolio folder, book and more

Eventbrite: workrestandsuccess.eventbrite.co.uk

Contact: Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission -
cw@wesleyschapel.org.uk - 020 7253 2262



Community Worker Corner

Greetings,

It's starting to get busy with a whole load of exciting ways to meet others, raise some money for charity and develop your faith a little more.

A group from Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission will be joining in with the Christian Aid Circle the City again, on May 17th, this year. If you have access to a computer please log on and register at Eventbrite

using the link <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/events/circle-city-2020-london> . Register as part of our group which is called Wesley's Chapel. If you're not part of a group there will be some paper forms and registration packs becoming available over coming weeks. For more info contact Sally Rush after church on the 9th or 16th February (cw@wesleyschapel.org.uk)

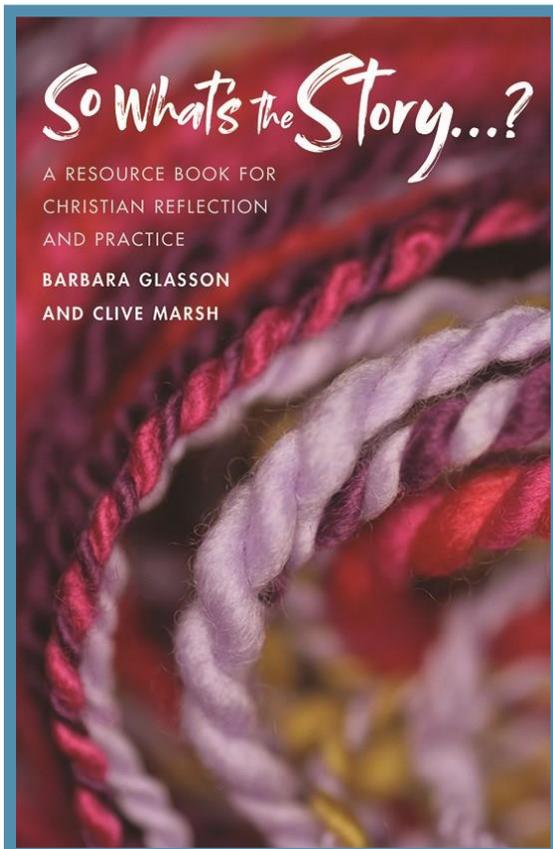


We'll also be supporting Christian Aid's count your blessing's campaign over Lent. Look out for details around the church as Lent approaches. (See elsewhere in this issue).

Re our Young Adults. We had 13 people along to the Lunch and Bible Study in January where we began looking at the book So What's the Story. After sharing in food, fellowship, and a time of worship we started to talk about the books which make up the bible, and the way they contain God's big story but our own lives can resonate with biblical stories too. We shared which biblical narratives we loved because we could connect to.... from David the big man who messed up, majorly, to Hagar the single mum who suffered from reactive depression before becoming a success. The group is for people from 16 to their mid 30's and meets on the third Sunday of the month. All in that age range are welcome to join with

us. We'll be by the church doors on Sunday 16th at 12:30, the lunch and bible study go on to 3pm.

Our socials also continue to help our young adults grow in fellowship. On 1st Feb it we went to the London Aquarium and on 7th March we are off to see Drip, Drip, Drip at the Pleasance Theatre, (8pm performance). If you're in the age group and want to come along please contact Sally (cw@wesleyschapel.org.uk). The play



offers a reflection on racism and the experience of those working in the NHS.

The group will also be joining in the trip that Steven is organising to Taize as well as heading off to the Greenbelt Festival this summer. If you're interested in either of these please do get in touch.

Elsewhere in this copy of WOW you'll find details of the Emerging Talent gig we have which will be showcasing the talents of young adults from the Soapbox Youth Centre and Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission. If you want to get a ticket they're £1 for children, £2 for adults and £5 per

family (up to 2 adults and 4 children). Ideally get your tickets from Eventbrite, but if that doesn't work for you they'll be available from the office during the week and on sale after church, briefly, on 9th and 16th Feb. The link to order on line is

<https://wesleysconcert.eventbrite.co.uk> . Amongst those we have performing are Caspian's Island, (which includes Ken Burnett), Leah Cadogan, Aaron Anderson and "Tony" Sopha Touch. Half of all the takings we get will go to support the Whitechapel Mission. This is the day before the Work, Rest and Success conference.

There's a lot of talk about events and dates here but at their core are people. All of them have the purpose of helping people get to know each other and develop their faith and to flourish as God intended.

Blessings this February

Sally (Community Worker, Younger Adults)

3 Generate

This Connexional year marked the first time a group from Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission took part in 3Generate (Methodist Youth & Children's Assembly) from 22nd-2th November in Southport.



3Generate is a weekend for hearing the voice of children and young people

across the Methodist Church, focussing on fun, faith and friends.

The programme on offer is full and varied, young people are encouraged to make their own choices about which of the many simultaneous events they wish to take part in.



The photos in this article give a snapshot of the event, or visit 3GenTV to see a number of related videos from the Methodist Church: <http://ow.ly/r0Yx50y783q>

All the young people had a great time, and are looking forward

hopefully attending 2020's 3Generate. This year it will take place at the NEC in Birmingham from 30th October – 1st November.



Could you be a part of supporting this potentially transformative weekends away for children and young people? We are looking for volunteer leaders to help look after our group whilst away

(so that we can take a larger group), and the Methodist Church is looking for volunteers to help with facilitation of the event. Speak to Judith, Sally, Steven or Jen if you'd like to find out more.

Lunchtime Music Recitals in February @ Wesley's Chapel

4th Nicklas Oldemeier - Piano

11th Dominic Doutney - Piano

18th Katherine Clarke - Viola

25th Felicity Vincent - Cello

Tuesdays @ 1.05p Entry Free of Charge



Make a Cross – God working incognito

Recently I heard someone say, “Coincidence is God working incognito” That sums up for me the experience of making a cross at the ArtServe* Festival in October last year. The theme was ‘Celebrate and Serve’ For me the coincidence starts in the Cairngorms last May when my daughter and I visited the beautiful little church at Insh, near Aviemore. Propped up against the wall outside the door was a cross.

It was made of two sticks with a ring of thorny strands around the centre. It was simple, yet so profound, the image has stayed with me ever since. I wished I could make a cross as expressive as this.



Imagine my amazement when I received the list of workshops from ArtServe to find ‘Carving a Cross’ as an option, I immediately replied with that as one of my choices. Then I received another email to say, ‘it won’t actually involve carving but using wood to create a cross.’ My quick response was, I preferred that to actual carving; here was an opportunity to develop my thoughts and feelings from Insh.

I was full of anticipation when Jonathon, our facilitator, started his explanation and shared possible ideas and urged us to think creatively. He then told us about his life and how God had worked through his skills. He closed by saying, “I am just a channel passing things on for others to experience”. My mind just exploded! Some words from my Salvation Army childhood written by Mary E Maxwell - *‘Channels only blessed Master’* flashed across my mind and an idea began to emerge. God had been working incognito since the Spring and suddenly he was present. I knew my cross had to reflect those words; but how, that was the challenge. It had to be a cross with channels.

The room was full of ideas; you could feel the creativity in the air. I began making a rough sketch. There was, what we call in school, a

'working noise' but this working noise was so full of the presence of God as thoughts and ideas began to emerge around the room and materials were selected. I found a comfortable spot to work and collected some pieces of wood. I thought of Jesus working alongside his father Joseph in the workshop, sharing ideas with each other as we were and developing skills he/we may not have used before.

God's ideas were now becoming clear; I made a base from three pieces of batten; two thinner pieces were laid along the joins to form a channel. I wanted the cross to reflect Jesus with arms pointing downwards towards the foot of the cross. Symbolically this would allow his sacrificial, redeeming love to flow down the channels out to us and into God's world.

It began well - and then I discovered I didn't have enough longer pieces of wood to complete the work; consequently, on one side I had to use shorter offcuts. This spoke to me of Christ's broken body on the cross. This was emphasized by leaving the wood rough like the real cross would have been with rough edges and splinters.

At the crucifixion the Romans put a mocking message above the cross. I needed something for today and the words of Mary Maxwell fitted perfectly.

*'Channels only blessed Master but with all your wondrous power flowing through me, you can use me every day and every hour.***



I wrote them by hand and attached them to the cross.

The Holy Spirit was moving within us as we shared our work; it became such a spiritual experience. Each person adding something of themselves as they explained their work. The reasons and

outcomes, it was a most moving, informative, challenging and Spirit filled fifteen minutes.

At home I have printed the words and fixed them above the cross. It hangs on the lounge wall beneath my Local Preaching Certificates reminding me daily and hourly that I am and all Christians, are called to be channels of God's love to all we meet: empowered by the Holy Spirit and I intend to try and do that.

It will also accompany me for sermons and other 'talks' to illustrate the point of Celebrate and Serve. I felt very humble for God had spoken to me 'incognito' and now I recognised him and had responded as did all of us in our own Spirit inspired way.

My thanks to Jonathon for being such an inspired 'channel' facilitating us, and my workshop colleagues for sharing their deep thoughts and giving support and encouragement.

If you want a deeply spiritual, creative, friendly and thoroughly enjoyable weekend join us at ArtServe next October at High Leigh, Hertfordshire.

Graham Warr
Heritage Steward, Wesley's Chapel & Leysian Mission
Local Preacher, Wey Valley Circuit

*ArtServe – Christian Creativity is a movement of people discovering and reflecting God's creative gifts shared among us, so that God is known more fully and lives are transformed.

www.artserve.org.uk

**'How I praise thee, precious Saviour' by Mary E. Maxwell





Emerging Talent @ Wesley's

49 City Road, EC1Y 1AU

21st Feb 2020 7:00 – 9:30pm

<https://wesleysconcert.eventbrite.co.uk>

or tickets available at the office or on the door



John Wesley
Wesley's Chapel
& Leysian Mission

Young Adults Pilgrimage to **TAIZÉ** 25th July–3rd August

Our minister, Revd Steven Cooper writes...

Following our feature on Taizé in the November issue of *Window on Wesley's*, I'm delighted to announce booking is now open for our trip to Taizé this summer. In July 2020, we're inviting people aged from school year 11 up to age 30 from Wesley's Chapel & Leysian Mission and from across the London Methodist District to join us on a journey to Taizé, an international Christian community in France. Founded out of the conflict of WWII, Taizé is an extraordinary place. Each week it offers several thousand young people from around the world time and space to breathe, to listen, to think and to live for a while to the beat of heaven. People that go to Taizé often say it's an experience that's changed their lives. We hope you'd like to join me, our community worker Sally Rush, and others as we travel there this July.

Please read on for lots of information about what Taizé's like, what goes on, how we'll be getting there and staying there and what it all costs. We hope you'd like to come and see, experience, enjoy Taizé for yourself.

What is the week in Taizé about?

The week-long meetings at Taizé are about searching, listening and thinking about what it means to be a human being, and how



we can do something to bring justice, peace and hope to our world.

We camp, or sleep in simple dormitories, eat out of plastic bowls, stay up late and spend amazing amounts of time singing and talking and

sharing. No one who has been to Taizé comes back unchanged. So why not journey with us and see what there is to discover?

The meetings provide a space where young adults can meet people their age from other countries and talk about important things. But at the same time it is also possible at Taizé to discover how to be on your own.

Three times a day everyone gathers with the community in the church for prayer with songs, a scripture reading and silence.

Each day, the brothers of the community introduce a biblical reflection organized by language, followed by a time of discussion in small groups.



In the afternoon there are workshops which explore themes of faith and life touching on work, society, art and culture, social justice, world peace...



Between the meals and times of prayer there is plenty of free time. In the evening there is a great time of socializing at 'Oyak' where over refreshments, there is singing, dancing and all kinds of spontaneous entertainment in the midst of the crowd. And the church is always open for those looking for quiet.

Nothing is compulsory about Taizé. The wonderful sense of freedom there makes the times of prayer and meeting

tremendously compelling. You just want to take part in everything because there is so much to be learned and experienced there.

Our trip is to experience life as part of a faith community. As such, it can be a powerful experience, and we will also be expected to join in and volunteer, for example by serving the meals, washing-up and keeping the site tidy.

A typical day at Taizé

Monday to Friday

8.15 am Morning Prayer, then breakfast

10.00am Introduction to the day with a brother of the community followed by small group discussion

12.20pm Midday Prayer, then lunch

2pm Optional song-practice during the afternoon, international small groups or practical work

5.15pm Tea

5.45pm Themed workshops

7.00pm Supper

8.30pm Evening prayer, then vigil with songs in the church, or free time. On Fridays, evening prayer is followed by a vigil around the cross.

9.30pm Free socializing time at 'Oyak'

11.30pm Night silence across the camp.

Saturday

3.15pm Themed workshops

8.30 pm Evening Prayer: Service of Light with candles to celebrate the Easter mystery

Sunday

8.45am Breakfast

10.00am Sunday Holy Communion

Trip details and costs

We will travel by coach, departing from London's Victoria Coach Station on Saturday afternoon 25th

July, returning on Monday morning 3rd August.

For young adults from Wesley's Chapel & Leysian Mission, the cost is subsidized: the total inclusive of travel, accommodation



and food will be £145, or £125 for those aged 24 and under. You will need a valid UK passport or appropriate visa for visiting France, and a European Health Insurance Card.

Bring a sleeping-bag and camping mat. There are shower and washing facilities on site. It can be hot in France at that time of year, but it can also rain. Come prepared!

Interested?

A leaflet with full info on how to book and a booking form, as well as rates for those joining us from the wider London District, are available from the church. To reserve a place, complete the booking form **by the end of March 2020**. (Those under 18 at the time of travel need to have parent/guardian consent.)

If you would like more information, or have questions regarding Taizé or the trip, please contact Revd Steven Cooper at minister@wesleyschapel.org.uk or Sally Rush at cw@wesleyschapel.org.uk, or call via the office on 020 7253 2262. Read up on Taizé at: www.taize.fr

Serendipity 31

More Questions?

As explained in several of the previous Serendipity articles which have appeared in Window on Wesley's, it is customary for Heritage Stewards to be asked questions about Wesley's Chapel and its contents. As regards the latter, the pipe organ in the main chapel is often an object of curiosity on the part of visitors who want to know about such things as to whether the organ was installed when the Chapel was first built and if not, when it was introduced, as well as John Wesley's attitude towards the use of such musical instruments in Methodist worship services. The Chapel organ tends to attract the attention of visitors because of its dominant position, exposed to view at the back of the building, and high up in the West gallery. But, alas, for most of

2019 while the instrument underwent its extensive renovation, looking was all that visitors and members of the congregation were able to do.

It should not be forgotten of course, that the main Chapel organ is not the only pipe organ of interest at Wesley's since there is the small single-manual instrument located in the Foundery Chapel and this has always been both available to view most of the time and to be heard played at certain times.

The Organs of Wesley's Chapel: Part One

The main Chapel Pipe Organ:

When the New Foundery, or City Road Chapel, as "Wesley's" was first known, opened on November 1st 1778, it was not equipped with a pipe organ; nor, indeed, was any other form of musical instrument used to accompany the hymn singing. This being in accord with what John Wesley believed was the simplicity of the "primitive religion" of the early Christian Church. Despite this view, John did appear to observe a certain degree of ambiguity about the use of musical instruments in services. For example, it is known that he strongly objected to the long organ voluntaries, (and probably the poor quality of the music chosen, and its playing!), which were often inserted into the middle of the Church of England services of his time, as being, "*an unreasonable and unmeaning impertinence*". Similarly, he also denounced the practice of, "*bands of music and theatrical singers*", being introduced into Methodist services when charity sermons were being given. Nevertheless, he did speak favourably about the use of organ music when he attended the celebration of Holy Communion in Macclesfield parish church in 1782. Also, he did not veto the proposed installations of pipe organs in the Methodist chapels at Bath, (1777), in Keighley, (1777 – 1778), or at Newark, (1778), when a word from him would have been sufficient to cause the schemes to be abandoned. But, as regards the services in the new Chapel he had built on the City Road, he expressly stipulated that hymns

were to be sung unaccompanied by any form of musical instrument.

Thus, the first congregations at his newly built Chapel sang “a cappella”, (as they had done at the Foundery), following the lead of a precentor who occupied the lowest stage of the then “triple decker” pulpit. This practice continuing at Wesley’s Chapel during the lifetime of Mr Wesley and then well into the 19th Century. Nor was “Wesley’s” unique in this respect, since with the exception of those already mentioned, the majority of the early chapels and meeting houses in the Methodist Connexion conformed with Mr Wesley’s wishes. Nevertheless, as congregations increased in size and larger buildings became necessary in order to accommodate them, then leading unaccompanied congregational singing, became more of a task than a pleasure so eventually the need for the support of a musical instrument became inevitable.

In 1805, the Wesleyan Conference discussed this problem and as result, ruled: “*Let no instrument of music be introduced into the precentor’s seat, except a bass viol, should the precentor require it*”. For a time, such instruments proved to be all that were necessary, but eventually, the use of a more powerful means of musical accompaniment, particularly in the larger chapels, began to seem essential. Another factor was that the desire to introduce a pipe organ seems to have to have arisen more widely as Methodist Societies sought to emulate their local parish churches. This is evident from the fact that the earlier Methodist Conference of 1796, “*discouraged the erection of organs*”, while the Conference of 1808, “*judged it expedient to refuse, after this present year, their sanction, or consent, to the erection of any organ in our chapels*”. Further, in 1815 the rule of 1805 was strictly re-enforced, but by 1820 important changes in the attitude to public worship, and to the use of pipe organs, in particular had become manifest. Thus Conference felt impelled to reconsider their approach to the matter and agreed to permit the installation of organs in Methodist places of worship on a “case by case” basis, subject to prior approval, and to the satisfaction of certain strict provisions.

These Conference rulings, seem to have reigned unchallenged for some considerable time thereafter. That is, until 1825 when certain of the members of the newly opened Brunswick Chapel, in Leeds, decided that an organ was a necessity. In their large building, with its seating capacity of 3000, *“it was felt that no individual was capable of being precentor for such a congregation”*. Hence the request to install an organ which “76 pew holders” took to a District Leaders Meeting comprising the Class Leaders from a very wide area. The meeting rejected the project arguing, *“That it was not desirable to place an organ in the chapel. It would deprive the Society of that simplicity of worship which had been so long and so signally owned of God”*.

Not with standing this rejection, the Trustees of Brunswick Chapel, who it appears had always intended their Chapel to have the congregational singing accompanied by an organ, and were determined to carry their point, began with the support of District Ministers, to collect subscriptions towards the purchase of such an instrument. Nevertheless, it would seem, that this desire was something of a minority interest for it failed to meet with the general approval of the membership of the Society. Indeed, it is recorded that, *“many were the pamphlets written for and against”*. In fact, the degree of antipathy aroused effected not only the chapel membership, but also other Methodists in the Leeds area. The controversy becoming so intense that both the President and the Secretary of the Wesleyan Methodist Conference were forced to intervene.

Of particular interest to Wesley’s Chapel, is that the Secretary of Conference at that time was the Rev. Jabez Bunting. That is, the man who became four times President of the Wesleyan Methodist Conference, is the very last person to be interred in the Chapel graveyard and is memorialised by the three-metre-high monument that sits just inside the Chapel front door, (see Serendipity Three). Of specific relevance to the “Leeds Chapel Organ Case”, as it became known, is that it was mainly through Jabez Bunting’s influence that Conference was persuaded to reverse its decision of 1808 and to ignore the various provisions

of its 1820 resolutions. It thus over-ruled the objections, acceded to the application initiated by “some” of the members of Brunswick Chapel, and approved the installation of the organ, albeit with many safeguards. For example, the instrument was to be used, *“not to overpower, but to assist congregational singing”*. Further much was said concerning the spiritual condition of anyone who was to be appointed organist. With these caveats, the controversial pipe organ was installed in Brunswick Chapel and at the dedication service in 1826 the organist was Samuel Wesley, who was the younger son of Charles Wesley and, John Wesley’s nephew.

Thus Brunswick Chapel got its organ, but “at a price”, since the installation “brought to a head” existing discontent over other matters. This led directly to both the secession of over 1000 members from the Wesleyan Methodist Societies in the Leeds District and to the formation of the Protestant Methodist Connexion, the first of the breakaway divisions of British Methodism.

The installation, but more often now, the removal, of an organ, can even today still be the cause of some heated debates at Methodist places of worship. Nevertheless, the sort of arguments that arose in Leeds seem to have ceased by the latter half of the 19th century. For, in 1882 an organ was installed, in Wesley’s Chapel.

Note, many of the following details are taken from the data compiled in 2002 by Mr R. G. Thompson, who was then Organist and Director of Music at Wesley’s Chapel.

It would seem, that the first pipe organ to be introduced into Wesley’s Chapel was an instrument which came from Jewin Street Chapel, when this, the only Methodist Chapel in the City of London, was closed in 1882. Although it was, at first, only intended to store this organ until such a time as the Jewin Street Society could obtain a new permanent home, the Wesley’s

trustees decided to purchase it, paying £150.00, plus £30.00 for the removal expenses.

Installed in the West gallery the instrument was used to accompany hymn singing for the next eight or nine years. Then, as part of the major Chapel renovation of 1891, reported in Serendipity Twenty-Four, it was replaced with a new organ built by Messrs Brindley and Foster, of Sheffield.

This more powerful instrument was not placed in the West gallery. Instead, the working components were located in the Eastern ends of the North and South galleries, where they were fronted in the North gallery by dummy pipes and on the South gallery by some speaking and some dummy pipes, as can be seen in the print on display in the Museum of Methodism. The organ console, which had formerly been in the West gallery, was relocated, in an improved form, to where it is now, on the ground floor, centrally in front of the first row of pews.

At that time, choir pews were positioned on each side of the dais, between the console and the pulpit so that the organist was ideally placed to conduct the choir. These choir pews of course, no longer exist as they were removed in 1978 at the time of another major renovation of the Chapel and their positions are now occupied by the communion rails which were installed in 1993.

Having described how the introduction of pipe organs into a Methodist place of worship, was once a factor in a major secession of members from the Methodist Connexion, the first part of this article concludes with the 1891 installation of a new organ in Wesley's Chapel. If you have read thus far and want to find out more, then make sure to pick up the next edition of Window on Wesley's.

Keith Dutton – Heritage Steward



LENT COURSE

All are welcome to join us to this lent as we explore faith. For those wishing to come into membership, this will serve as a membership course.

Food from 5.30pm

Start 6pm

Finish 7pm

Any Questions?

Steven

minister@wesleyschapel.org.uk

Jen

super@wesleyschapel.org.uk

Judith

missioner@wesleyschapel.org.uk

Exploring Faith

Wednesday Evenings 4th March – 1st April, plus
Maundy Thursday (9th April)

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 4 March | What is grace? What is faith? |
| 11 March | How are we to understand Jesus's death and resurrection? What is the kingdom of God? |
| 18 March | How does the teaching of Jesus affect how we live? What is the Holy Trinity? |
| 25 March | What is the Church for? What are baptism and holy communion about? |
| 1 April | Why are there different denominations and should there be? What other questions do we have? |
| 9 April | Final Reflections |

Wesley's Chapel &
Leysian Mission

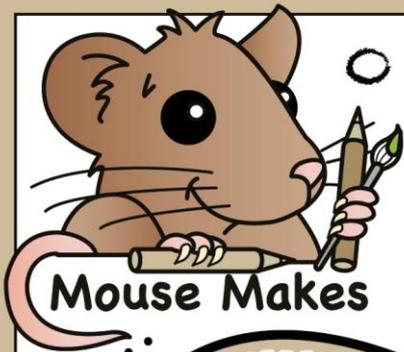
49 City Road, London, EC1Y
1AU

02072532262

www.wesleyschapel.org.uk

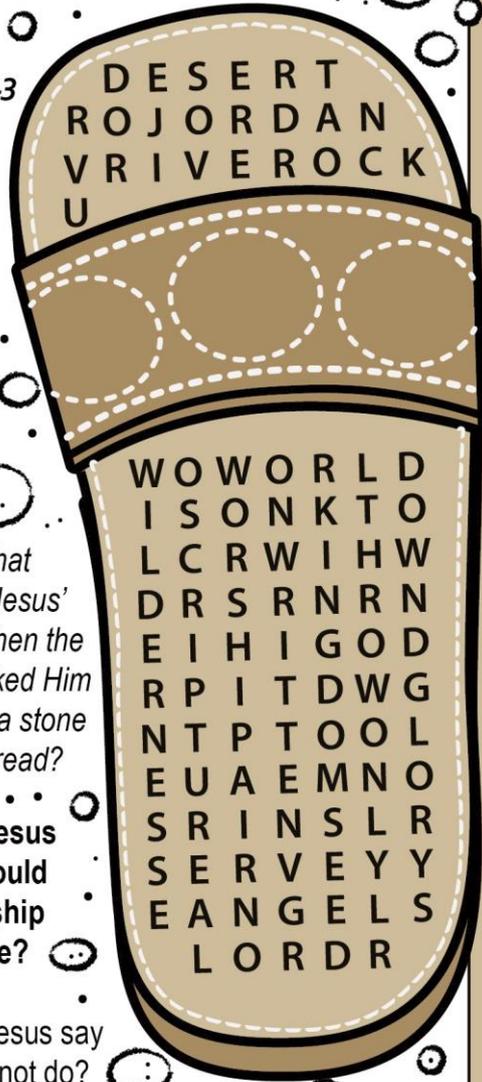


Children's page



After **Jesus** was baptised He was led by the Spirit into the **wilderness** for **forty days** where he was tempted by the devil.

READ the story in **Luke 4:1-13**



What was Jesus' reply when the devil asked Him to turn a stone into bread?

Who did Jesus say He would only worship and serve?

What did Jesus say you must not do?

Can you find these words in the word search?

- JESUS • BAPTISED • RIVER • JORDAN • LED
- HOLY SPIRIT • WILDERNESS • DESERT • TEMPTATIONS
- DEVIL • FORTY • DAYS • HUNGRY • ROCK • STONE
- BREAD • WRITTEN • SCRIPTURE • ALL • KINGDOMS • WORLD • GLORY
- WORSHIP • SERVE • GOD • ONLY • JERUSALEM • TEMPLE • HIGH • IF • SON
- JUMP • THROW • DOWN • ANGELS • HOLD • LIFT • FOOT • LORD • TEST

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASSES

Nothing is Quite as it Seems!

Professional Curiosity & Disguised Compliance

Saturday 14th March 2020

We are delighted to announce the date for our annual Safeguarding Conference which takes place on 14th March 2020 at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster.

Our theme this year is 'Professional Curiosity and Disguised Compliance' and we're keeping our keynote speaker under wraps until closer to the day!

Further details to follow – Don't forget to put the date in your diaries!

Chairs: Revd Nigel Cowgill, Revd Michaela Youngson, Revd Dr Jongikaya Zihle
London District, Methodist Central Hall Westminster, Storey's Gate, Westminster, London SW1H 9NH
Telephone: 020 7654 3850 **Email:** admin@methodistlondon.org.uk **Charity No:** 1134871

Wesley's Chapel & Leysian Mission Weekly Programme

Sunday	9.45am	Holy Communion (except first Sunday in month)
	11.00am	Morning Service
	12.30pm	Methodist Women in Britain (MWIB) (first Sunday in the month)
	12.30pm	Wesley's Chapel Methodist Men's Fellowship (first Sunday in month)
	12.30pm	Young Adults lunch & Bible Study (third Sunday in the month)
	12.30pm	Wesley's Chapel Ghana Fellowship (last Sunday in the month)
	7.00pm	Taizé Evening Services: International Service (second Sunday in the month) Reflective Service with Open Prayer (last Sunday in the month)
Monday	2.00pm	Sisterhood Fellowship
Tuesday	10.30am	Teddy Bear Service (last Tuesday in the Month)
	1.05pm	Lunchtime Recital (except July, August & December – free entry)
	6.30pm	Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association
Wednesday	10.00am	Stay and Play (pre-school – term time only)
	12.45pm	Service of Holy Communion (30 minutes)
Thursday	12.45pm	Service of the Word (30 minutes) <i>(followed by lunch & fellowship)</i>
Saturday		Young Adults Social (first Saturday in the month) <i>(times may vary according to activity)</i>

If you would like to submit an article, poem, prayer or item of interest for this magazine please email it to:

manager@wesleyschapel.org.uk

Volunteers needed!

The London District of the Methodist
Church is looking for people to help at
Synod.

25th April 2020

- general assistants
- stewards/scrutineers



If you're interested in volunteering,
please contact the London District
Office admin team on

admin@methodistlondon.org.uk or call 0207 654 3850.